

The Vice President's Plane Is Missing

By Maxine Cheshire

Vice President Gerald Ford doesn't seem to need some of the trappings of office which his predecessor, Spiro T. Agnew, demanded.

Agnew, according to Ford's aides, insisted upon his own airplane, his own pilots, his own ground crew and a special "VIP" lounge at Andrews Air Force Base. The room, kept locked and unused by anyone else, was stocked with Agnew's favorite food and drink.

Ford has told the Air Force that he doesn't need the lounge. He will take "whatever plane is available from the regular pool" and whichever pilots are on call.

As for the ground crew, who worked on no other plane except Agnew's, they will return to normal assignments. Ford considered it wasteful to have them assigned exclusively to him.

There is a touch of irony in Ford's decision to dispense with his own "Air Force II." The first chapter

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VIP, From H1

of Agnew's novel-in-progress, is set aboard the vice presidential aircraft and one of the selling points of the book was that it contained so much detail about the way things were run on that official plane.

A Support Session?

Reports circulated at the State Department and on Capitol Hill last week that Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn has expressed an interest in meeting with the United States politician who has been his most outspoken supporter, Sen. Henry (Scoop) Jackson (D-Wash.).

A spokesman for Jackson's office said he was aware of the reports but that so far there has been no direct contact with either Solzhenitsyn or his lawyers.

Dean in Hard Cover

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III is one of the few Watergate figures who book publishers felt had a story to tell that the public would pay to read.

A spokesman for Bantam Books said last week that a deal is "imminent" between them and the hard-cover publishing house of Farrar, Strauss & Giroux for Dean's memoirs.

He won't get "anything near" the \$250,000 his agent was asking, the source said. But he is likely to get enough to live comfortably while Watergate-related court proceedings drag on for the next several years.